

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN

The certification to this level will require the following:

- Step 1- Fulfill the examination entrance criteria
- Step 2- Submission and acceptance of an application, Medical Authorization for Certification form, and fee by the deadline date.
- Step 3- Successful completion of a written examination.
- Step 4- Successful completion of a practical examination.

STEP ONE- EXAMINATION ENTRANCE CRITERIA

Examination entrance criteria for this level is the following:

- 1- At least 18 years of age at the time of the examination.
- 2- Possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- 3- Be a member of the Massachusetts fire service.

STEP TWO- APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application, “Medical Authorization for Certification” form, and fee must be submitted and received at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy no later than the deadline date noted in the examination schedule. The fee must be in the form of a personal check, bank draft, money order, municipal check, or municipal purchase order made to the order of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Trust Fund. All others will be rejected. Upon acceptance, the candidate will be assigned to the examination date requested on the application. All applicants will be notified by mail and if accepted will be supplied with all examination procedures.

STEP THREE- WRITTEN EXAMINATION

This section will consist of 150 multiple choice questions given in a 150 minute period designed to examine the knowledge required by NFPA Standard 472, 1997 edition, for the levels of First Responder- Awareness, First Responder- Operational, and Hazardous Materials Technician in the following subject areas: Analyzing the Incident, Planning the Response, Implementing the Planned Response, and Evaluating Progress.

The reference materials from which the questions for this written examination will be drawn are the following International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) manuals.

- Hazardous Materials for First Responders, second edition.
- Hazardous Materials- Managing the Incident, second edition.

Candidates will be issued a 2000 Emergency Response Guidebook and will be asked specific questions concerning this manual.

When available, specific chapters for each reference manual will be provided in the candidate's acceptance letter.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following are sample questions to represent most of the **type** of questions a candidate will be asked to answer during the written examination.

1. For a candidate for this level of certification to be successful, he or she must do the following.

- A. Take the examination process seriously.
- B. Read all documentation carefully.
- C. Study all references and applicable skill sheets closely.
- D. All of the above.

2. Of the following, which would be a high pressure (over 75 psi) carrier?

- A. MC 306
- B. MC 312
- C. MC 331
- D. MC 307

3. Of the following, which is **not** a DOT hazard class?

- A. Flammable gas
- B. Oxidizer
- C. Corrosive
- D. Diesel fuel

4. In the NFPA 704 system, white indicates_____, blue indicates_____, red indicates_____, and yellow indicates_____.

- A. flammability hazards, health hazards, special hazards, reactivity hazards.
- B. special hazards health hazards, flammability hazards, reactivity hazards.
- C. health hazards, special hazards, flammability hazards, reactivity hazards.
- D. special hazards, health hazards, reactivity hazards, flammability hazards.

5. _____ is primarily a defensive tactic which involves containing the flow of hazardous material and capturing it at some specified location.

- A. Confinement
- B. Containment
- C. Isolation
- D. Absorption

ANSWERS

1. B 2. C 3. D 4. B 5. A

STEP THREE- PRACTICAL SKILLS EXAMINATION

NOTICE: THIS PRACTICAL EXAMINATION REQUIRES THE PARTICIPANT TO UNDERGO VIGOROUS PHYSICAL EXERTION FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

The candidate will be examined in selected skills as required by NFPA 472, 1997 edition. All candidates will receive ALL potential skills sheets, which may be examined, but this practical examination will only address a certain few. All candidates should be able to demonstrate all skills as notification of which skills to be examined will be given only on the examination day.

NOTE: Both examinations, written and practical, will be administered on the same day. While a portion of the candidates are taking the written examination, the others will be taking the practical examination. When each group has finished their respective part, the groups will switch and complete the remaining examination.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Protective clothing- Protective clothing will be inspected prior to any candidate participating in an examination to assure the clothing meets the minimum requirements established by the Council. Your acceptance package will outline the inspection process for protective clothing. The Training Council reserves the right not to allow a candidate to participate in the examination for a lack of minimum protective clothing. There will be NO protective clothing available at the examination site.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus- Those candidates who wish to bring their own SCBA are encouraged to do so. However, it must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Duration of at least 30 minutes.
2. Capable of being operated in the positive pressure mode.
3. NIOSH/MSHA approved.
4. Spare air bottles must be from the same SCBA manufacturer as the unit.

SCBA will also be inspected prior to a candidate participating in the practical examination and the Training Council reserves the right to not allow a candidate to be examined with SCBA not meeting the above criteria.

AT THE TIME OF THIS SCHEDULE'S PUBLICATION, THE TYPES OF SCBA AVAILABLE AT THE EXAMINATION SITE IS BEING REVISED. CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF SPECIFIC SCBA AVAILABILITY IN THEIR ACCEPTANCE PACKAGES.

Facial hair- Manufacturers of self-contained breathing apparatus and OSHA regulations recommend that persons wearing beards, side-burns, or lengthy hair styles should not wear self-contained breathing apparatus since it may interfere with a proper facepiece seal and render the unit ineffective. The Massachusetts Fire Training Council endorses this same policy. As certification examination utilizes and examines SCBA practical skills, persons wearing beards, sideburns or lengthy hair styles which may interfere with a proper facepiece seal will not be allowed to take any part of the examination, written or practical.

PASS/FAIL CRITERIA:

Candidates must achieve at least a 70% on the written and practical examinations with no failures in any critical areas to receive a passing score leading to certification. This certification WILL NOT certify fulfillment of the training or medical surveillance requirements of NFPA 472, 1997 edition.